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November Field Trip

The November field trip was taken on the 15th, from Ross, Marin County. The day was fair and not too warm for walking. We first went to the Ross Town Hall to see Fire Chief Schumacher's group of pheasants. Here are seven different species of pheasants all in beautiful plumage.

We lunched at the fork of the roads just beyond Phoenix Lake and were entertained by an exhibition of two Ruby-crowned Kinglets quarreling over disputed territory. It was a thrill to see the very bright red of the crown at such close range. However, the highlight of the trip was the finding of two Spotted Owls in a redwood tree very near the place where we found them in November, 1934. They seemed to pose for us. Soon one of them flew across the canyon to a laurel tree not more than thirty feet from our line of travel. We had splendid views and all felt that we were more than rewarded for the trip. This species was previously seen at this location on our trips of November 15, 1931, June 12, 1932, November 13, 1933, and November 11, 1934.

There was an unusual number of Hermit Thrushes, but strangely we found no Brown Towhees or Meadowlarks. At the top of the ridge, instead of going on to Lake Lagunitas, we turned north down an easy grade to Fairfax, where we entrained for home.

The following thirty-nine species were seen:

Eared Grebe	Black Phoebe	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pied-billed Grebe	Nicasio Jay	Cedar Waxwing
American Pintail	Coast Jay	Audubon Warbler
American Coot	Western Crow	English Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Nicasio Chickadee	Brewer Blackbird
Sparrow Hawk	Plain Titmouse	Pine Siskin
Spotted Owl	Coast Bush-tit	Willow Goldfinch
Anna Hummingbird	Ruddy Wren-tit	Green-backed Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Western Winter Wren	Spotted Towhee
Red-shafted Flicker	Bewick Wren	Junco
California Woodpecker	Western Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Hermit Thrush	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Willow Woodpecker	Western Bluebird	Song Sparrow

On Richardson Bay and marshes, Farallon Cormorant, twenty American Egrets, many American Pintails, Ruddy Duck, Coot, Killdeer, a large flock of sandpipers, many California and Ring-billed Gulls, and two Western Belted Kingfishers were seen.

Ten members attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Stephens; Mesdames Courtright, Saunders; Misses Cockefair, Cohen, Papina, Taylor; Messrs. Jencks, C. R. Thomas. Two guests were: Mesdames Anabel and Jencks.

Mary L. Courtright, Leader and Historian.

Ornithology Proves Useful Hobby

Approximately 1400 individuals, ranging in age from sixteen to eighty, spend a great deal of their leisure time watching and counting wild birds. It is largely upon the observations and tabulations made by these amateur ornithologists that the National Association of Audubon Societies depends for check-up on the prevalence of the various bird species.

In all sections of the country these patient bird-lovers observe the habits and count the number of birds of different species they encounter. They are the Association's census-takers. Each year their reports are gathered for a general census of all the bird species in the United States, compiled at Christmas time. From these data Audubon experts are able to gauge the comparative abundance or scarcity of certain birds. Where a species is found to be diminishing in numbers, steps are taken to discover the causes of the depletion and then an intensive campaign is launched to protect the species threatened with extinction.

A conspicuous example of the valuable contributions made by amateurs to the conservation work of the Audubon Association was cited by William Vogt, editor of "Bird Lore," published by the Association. When the Bob-white was threatened with extinction in Ohio, the hunting season for those birds was closed as a result of agitation on the part of the Audubon Association, and continued closed for twelve years. Sportsmen banded together and petitioned that the ban be lifted on the ground that if the coveys were not broken up occasionally by hunters, much inbreeding would result, with the eventual disappearance of the species. Audubon experts consulted the censuses made by their bird-watching members and were able to produce proof that the number of Bob-whites had increased appreciably during the twelve years' duration of the closed season, thus disproving the sportsmen's theories. The closed season continues and the Bob-white has been saved, thanks to the hobbyists who contributed their knowledge to the Association's records.

The only equipment necessary for the fascinating hobby of birdwatching is unlimited patience, a keen sense of observation, curiosity and a love of nature. The hobby attracts more and more followers yearly, a valuable cohort of workers for the culling of facts upon which many scientific studies have been based — facts, armed with which, the Audubon Association has been able vigorously to combat stupid and uneconomic destruction of wildlife.

Of the figures submitted by amateurs, 175 censuses are compiled annually covering every state in the Union and most of the Canadian provinces. The most active of the local census takers is the Bronx County Bird Club, with twenty members, who, covering a radius of fifteen miles, spend most of their leisure hours counting the different species which appear in the environs of New York City. A second group has recently been organized, the Sialis (Blue Bird) Club, with a membership of young boys. During the winter of 1935, the club reported 107 species in the vicinity.

On Sunday, December 20, 1936, the annual Christmas census will be taken in San Francisco. We need workers and a request is made for volunteers. Send in your name or get in touch with either Mrs. Junea W. Kelly or Mrs. Stephens.



Audubon Society to Establish Fellowships

The establishment of a series of fellowships at selected universities will feature the 1937 program of the National Association of Audubon Societies according to a statement made by John H. Baker, Executive Director, at the Thirty-second Annual Convention.

"The National Association of Audubon Societies proposes, with the co-operation of interested organizations and individuals, the establishment of a series of Audubon Fellowships. The plan involves the co-operation of selected universities where the research work would be carried on in detail by well-qualified, mature students, working for a degree, under the supervision of professors especially qualified to direct the project. In many cases it will doubtless seem advisable

to utilize the joint services of experienced field men in a given territory, but we believe the concept thoroughly sound that the ecological study and the drawing of conclusions as to methods of preservation and restoration be in the hands of a qualified young man, possessing a fresh approach to the problem and not handicapped by preconceived prejudices or opinions.

"It is our belief that the average research project would require three years and an annual contribution by the Association of about \$1500 to cover compensation to the student plus travel expenses, the University to contribute the equivalent of \$1000 or \$1500 in services and equipment.

"There are certain fundamental problems which we would like to see made the subject of Audubon Fellowship Research. These include:

- "(1) Advantages of natural versus artificial production.
- "(2) Advantages of environmental control versus killing control.
- "(3) The wisdom of control of any kind on sanctuary or refuge areas.
- "(4) Predator-proofing the environment, including the role of buffers.
- "(5) Wisdom and extent of so-called 'vermin' campaigns.
- "(6) Wisdom and extent of control of fish-eating birds at hatcheries.
- "(7) Is the introduction of any foreign species ever beneficial?
- "(8) Wisdom and extent of use of poison baits as a method of control.
- "(9) Methods of mosquito control, with minimum if any injury to other wildlife.
- "(10) The effect of poison sprays on wildlife in the area.
- "(11) The effect of lumbering on wildlife in the area.

"Now to come to specific species: This research would involve not only a complete inventory but an ecological study, a measure of the character and extent of the decimating factors, and the drawing of conclusions as to preservation and restoration. As to birds, the NAAS would like to initiate research projects with relation to the Condor, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the four species of Kites, the Whooping Crane, the Glossy Ibis and the Sage Grouse. In a little different category, we would like to see a project initiated to determine the role of the Crow in wildlife conservation. As far as we know, all studies of the Crow to date have been concerned with its food and its life history in relation to agriculture, but very little has been done as to its ecological standing. The Crow is certainly not a threatened species now, but the prejudice against it is widespread and, if unjustified, should be eradicated.

"Science today may fairly, I think, be subject to criticism that it is more interested in the minute details of coloring of a bird's tail feathers than in its continuance in our avifauna. The management principal and technique for successful perpetuation of any species lies in its biology. To work them out is the duty of science and should be approached from a conservation management angle. The NAAS hopes for the enthusiastic support of this Audubon Fellowship Research Program by all nature lovers, ornithologists, mammalogists, biologists, universities and foundations, as well as by its individual members."



Change of Diet for Sea Gulls

Hundreds of gulls, summering at Glacier National Park, enjoyed a Gargantuan feast when a brisk north wind in August carried millions of grasshoppers from the plains high up into the Waterton Valley. The lake, which is one of its loveliest scenic attractions, was covered with them for several days, and furnished fresh meat for the hungry sea birds.

Memorandum from the Department of the Interior.



Audubon Notes

December Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 10th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Dr. Gayle Pickwell, of the San Jose State Teachers' College, whose subject will be "The Life Histories of the

Monarch and Swallowtail Butterflies," illustrated with lantern slides.



December Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 13th, to the University of California campus, Berkeley. San Francisco members take 9 a. m. Southern Pacific Ferry and Shattuck Avenue train to Berkeley Station. Party will meet at University and Shattuck Avenues. Bring luncheon. Leader, Mrs. Kelly.



Junior Audubon Clubs: Mrs. Junea W. Kelly has become Junior Club representative for the National Association of Audubon Societies and will handle all orders and inquiries from counties of northern California with the exception of Mono and Inyo Counties.



November Meeting: The 231st regular meeting was held on Thursday evening, the 12th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty members and guests present. Mrs. Kelly presided and was also the speaker of the evening, taking as her subject "Birding Extraordinary."

The following were elected to membership: Life, Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, of Berkeley; Active: Mr. Angelo Hewetson of Alameda, Mr. F. M. Jencks of Oakland, Miss Lillian McHoul of Berkeley, Mrs. Kenneth Saunders of Berkeley, Mrs. Anne H. Smith of Alameda and Miss Grace M. Taylor of Berkeley.

The following observations were reported:

B. C. Cain: The first Varied Thrush of the season was seen in Piedmont Park, Highland and Magnolia Avenues, Piedmont, October 24th, also Cedar Waxwings; Black-throated Gray Warbler in Strawberry Canyon, October 18th; Golden-crowned Kinglets at Boy Scout Camp in Oakland hills on the 13th, also observed there frequently since then.

Mr. Angelo Hewetson saw in his garden in Alameda a Fox Sparrow and a female Yellow-throat, October 25th, and heard a Mockingbird imitating a Russet-backed Thrush November 1st.

Mrs. Kelly: Wilson Snipe, Chain of Lakes, Golden Park, October 21st.

Mrs. Millard: Lutescent Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Hermit Thrush in her garden in San Francisco, October 29th.

Commander Parmenter: The first Canada Geese, twelve of them, were seen by the keeper, Mr. Bee, at Crystal Springs Lake, October 25th, and on the 28th the Commander counted thirty and on November 11th sixty-two. The first Glaucous-winged Gull was seen at Lake Merced, November 9th. Twenty Long-billed Curlews were seen on Mountain View marshes, October 19th, and ten Knots, San Mateo Bridge, 50± Long-billed Dowitchers, Mountain View marshes, November 11th; and more than 500 Avocets at Redwood City ponds and bridges, October 19th.

Mrs. Stephens: Pileolated Warbler, Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, November 3rd, an extremely late date.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

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For the Study and the Protection of Birds

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Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

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Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.